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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Poland

DATE DISTR. 8 January 1952³

SUBJECT Pszczyna County: Military and Economic Information

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25X1

SUPPLEMENT TO
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25X1

1. A KBW unit is stationed in barracks near the sport stadium in Pszczyna (Q50/X79). The unit is thought to be a battalion with an estimated strength of 700. The commanding officer is a major. The uniform worn by the soldiers is green; their caps are the same color with a dark blue hatband. The troops wear a pentagonal insignia on their collars which is also dark blue. The soldiers are armed with PPB guns, but no KB carbines have been observed. A Dektarev-type light machine gun with a round cartridge-holder was recognized. Russian machine guns (heavy) on carriages have also been seen.
2. Soldiers in the unit are frequently used to escort prisoners being transferred from one prison to another. They also guard the perimeter of the prison at night.
3. The Pszczyna barracks are three-story buildings, 100 meters long and 25 meters deep. At the entrance to the barracks, there is a watch tower which is manned 24 hours a day.
4. The largest power plant in Poland is in Laziska Górne, according to the Communist press. Close to the power plant there is a factory which produces various types of wheels, including railroad car wheels. The plant area is four kilometers long and 1.5 kilometers broad. It is thought that some military equipment is produced there because, in addition to the day-time industrial guard, elements of the Pszczyna KBW patrol the area at night. A railroad line connects the plant with the Laziska Górne railroad station. Coal required by the plant is brought by rail from the Boze Mary mine at Kostuchna. The power plant dates from before the war; the wheel factory, however, was constructed after the war. Over 1,000 people are employed in three shifts.
5. The lignoza powder factory is located in Bierun, in the woods three kilometers from the road connecting Mlinskie and Owiecim. A hard-surface road connects the plant with the highway. A side track joins the plant and the Kozłowa coal mine on the Katowice-Owiecim railroad. A military guard watches over the road at its entrance into the wood. Workers live in houses close to the factory. Traffic on the side road is heavy; it consists of both trucks and passenger cars.

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PAGE 2

Explosions are often heard in the forest in which the plant is located. Smells caused by the production process permeate the air for several kilometers around. Signs bearing the words "Military Object, Entry Prohibited" are posted around the guarded perimeter. The guards are attached to the KBW unit in Pzuczyna.

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